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Part A: Written Response

English 30 English 30

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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Alberta
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January 1998

English 30 Part A: Written Response
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments:

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

Suggested time
30 minutes

Value
30 marks

... *Page 2*

- **Literature Composition Assignment**

Suggested time
1 1/2 to 2 hours

Value
70 marks

... *Page 10*

Time: 2 1/2 hours. You may take an additional 1/2 hour to complete the examination.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your finished work. Please write your finished work in blue or black ink.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
 - an English language and/or translation dictionary
 - a thesaurus
 - an authorized writing handbook
- Budget your time carefully; the suggested time for each part is only a guideline for you.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using a 12-point or larger font such as Times, New York, or Courier. Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated in the booklet for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your finished work.

Instructions

1. Read “The Swimmer’s Moment” carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.
2. Read **both** assignments before you begin.

THE SWIMMER’S MOMENT

For everyone
The swimmer’s moment at the whirlpool comes,
But many at that moment will not say
‘This is the whirlpool, then.’
By their refusal they are saved
From the black pit, and also from contesting
The deadly rapids, and emerging in
The mysterious, and more ample, further waters.
And so their bland-blank faces turn and turn
Pale and forever on the rim of suction
They will not recognize.
Of those who dare the knowledge
Many are whirled into the ominous centre
That, gaping vertical, seals up
For them an eternal boon¹ of privacy,
So that we turn away from their defeat
With a despair, not for their deaths, but for
Ourselves, who cannot penetrate their secret
Nor even guess at the anonymous breadth
Where one or two have won:
(The silver reaches of the estuary).²

Margaret Avison

¹boon—something beneficial or pleasant, a favour

²reaches of the estuary—wide stretch of water where the mouth of a river meets the sea

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment
(Suggested time: approximately 1/2 hour)

“The Swimmer’s Moment” by Margaret Avison suggests that we choose either to avoid or to enter into the challenge of the unknown.

What does “The Swimmer’s Moment” convey to you about the significance of our response to challenge? Support your response with reference to specific detail from the poem.

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

Use the following pages to plan your response.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Reader's Response here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours)

The individual at the threshold of challenge confronts circumstances or ideas that are both daunting and promising. Much literature examines the ways in which an individual's response to challenge shapes his or her life.

Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines the significance of the individual's response to challenge. **What idea(s) does the author develop regarding the individual's response to challenge?** Support and develop your controlling idea with reference to specific details from the literature you choose to discuss.

Guidelines for Writing

- **Select** the literature you choose to discuss from relevant short stories, novels, plays, poems, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must discuss literature **other than** the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea regarding individual response to challenge. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are responding to the requirements of this assignment as you develop and support your controlling idea.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly and coherently developed.

Literature Composition Assignment

INITIAL PLANNING

Space is provided here for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title
of literature that
you have chosen

Your controlling idea
or thesis statement

There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

If you are using a word processor, staple your Literature Composition here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Literature Composition Assignment

REVISED WORK

There is additional space for Revised Work on odd-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

Literature Composition Assignment

REVISED WORK

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING

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Literature Composition Assignment

REVISED WORK

Credit

Margaret Avison. “The Swimmer’s Moment” from *15 Canadian Poets* (Oxford University Press, 1990). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with CanCopy (Canadian Copyright Licencing Agency).

Do Not Write

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